Software Underground

Board Meeting

31 Oct 2023

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Tuesday 31 Oct 2023. Quorum is 5.

Chair: The chair is TBD.

Regrets:

Present: Dieter, Sissi, Santi, Matt, Leo, Matteo

Visiting:

Previous meeting

Previous meeting minutes are on GitHub:
https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/blob/main/board

Remarks

- **None**

Mattermost

The Mattermost instance is running.

The Slack has been downgraded to the free tier, but they put us on a Pro trial, so nothing has changed yet.

Discussion:

- Santi: Should we allow users to create their own Teams?

- Santi: ~~Fatiando is interested in having its own Team within Swung's Mattermost instance, rather than a single channel (as they currently have in Slack).~~ We decided to stick with a channel (as we used to have in Slack).

- Is it possible to point people from a channel in one Team to a channel in another Team? Such a setup would create silos or would favor interactions?

- Possible issue with resetting password if forgotten

- Update links in Swung's website to Mattermost

  - The Sign Up button in the home page was linking to Slack yet

- Issue tracker for Mattermost on GitHub:

  - https://github.com/softwareunderground/mattermost

- Url to the swung team is too long.

Actions: What now?

Remarks:

- Dieter: I like the idea of Teams for different software communities. It might make it more feasible for larger communities (e.g., SimPEG) to move to Swung. I am on a Mattermost with different Teams in a work environment, and it works quite nice. I don't think it would necessarily create silo's, because:
  - You can link a message from one Team in another Team, and that works fine!
  - Direct Messages work across Teams, so your personal Direct Message section remains the same no matter in what Team you are.
- Dieter: The question for me would be:
  - Would we allow "Private Teams", or should the Teams be open? (The channels of course can be private.)
  - Should we implement guidelines? E.g., keep general topics, e.g., Python, to the main Swung Team, and don't create a Python-Channel in each new Team…
- Dieter: Another point - on Mattermost there is no URL-shortener (as we had it on Slack).
- Dieter: "Off Topic" (mattermost's "Random") vs "Random" (from Slack). - And similar, "Town Square" vs "General" (and its header-message).
- Differences:
  - Link to channel with a ~ instead of a #
  - Playbooks for automating tasks
  - Santi: To browse channels one must go to "Add channels", which could be confusing. Maybe point people to Getting started doc of Mattermost
- Check if archived channels in Slack were backed up
- Decide who should be admin in Mattermost

- Ask admins to enable 2FA
  - Only allow admins to create new teams
  - Other communities could ask to create a Team in our instance

Mastodon

In August we discussed having a short tutorial, led by Leo, on Mastodon. Swung would set up a small server ahead of time, on which people can register. AFAIK, we have not progressed this, but with the recent X stuff (eg paid accounts) I think it's clear.

Action: Formulate the steps to making this happen (if Leo is present).

Remarks:

- Mobile app experience is great. Try non-official apps!
  - Tusky in Android for example.
- The tricky thing to get started is to choose a server
- Start the conversation on Mattermost:
  - Share our Mastodon handles
  - Invite ppl to ask questions
- A lot of servers rely on only a few people to host an instance in their homes
  - We could use more stability
  - Idea: promote organizations to have their own instances. They could offer paid accounts.

Financials

We will be transferring the bank account administration role to Matteo after he moves to Nova Scotia. It has been problematic having the admin live overseas (Matt, Norway).

First point of action: Swung owes Matt for the BIRS payments (not urgent).

Remarks:

- **Matteo will most likely be moving some time in early 2024**

Events

We will start looking at Transform in November or December.

There was a suggestion to "consider EGU General Assembly happening April 14-19", what could this involve?

Any other 2024 events to think about? E.g. EAGE Digital in Paris, also April I think.

Remarks:

- If we plan Transform for APril 2024, note that EGU is happening. We could organize Transform before/after EGU (people might be in the sample place already), or avoid EGU.

Next meeting

Is already set up for November, check your calendars.

Remarks:

- **None**

Any other business

None.

Remarks:

- None

Parking lot / next meeting

These items will go into the next board meeting(s):

- We still need to update the tech spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mNAGEgQNvfZem5zY38u9etn2O0aFWbE2zJLcMEdiL4Y/edit?usp=sharing

- Check the status of receipt for Swung membership/donations (so it can potentially be deducted / charged to the employer like the membership of other professional societies).

- The following items that were scheduled for this meeting: